



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Docket No. 404980)

Examiner
10-3-03 3713

7/REBASSG

In re the Application of:)
GRISWOLD, CHAUNCEY)
Serial No.: 10/084,820)
Filed: February 27, 2002)
For: CONTACTLESS CARD READING IN A)
GAMING MACHINE)
TO: Commissioner for Patents)
P.O. Box 1450)
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450)

Confirmation No.
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner Jones, Scott E.

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 17, 2003, reconsideration of this application and allowance of the claims is requested.

The examiner has stated that the previous amendment failed to address the rejection to claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 5 reads as follows:

"The method of claim 1 in which apparatus for biometric scanning provides a biometric scan of said player as a necessary prerequisite to said machine activation."

The specific rejection to claim 5 is that there is allegedly insufficient antecedent basis for "apparatus for biometric scanning".

It is believed that this claim is entirely definite and proper. The attention of the examiner is directed to the last paragraph of page 3 and the first two paragraphs of page 4 of the specification, to provide background on what is intended by the phrase "apparatus for biometric scanning". As stated, such biometric scanning is an optional, supplementary form of player identification which may be added to the broad method of this application as a

particular embodiment thereof. Alternative techniques of separate, personal identification may be used as indicated by claim 4. Specifically, on page 4, the biometric information which is optionally obtained by biometric scanning as in claim five may be compared with biometric information carried on the card that the user carries, or it may be compared with biometric information stored in a central computer, to authenticate the identity of the would-be player.

In claim 5, the phrase "apparatus for biometric scanning" does not require antecedent basis, because the phrase represents the first introduction of the particular claim element that comprises such apparatus. It is a new element, not found in the method of claim 1, but, rather, represents an added, new claim limitation of claim 5 for practicing the invention of claim 1, with the added subject matter as described in the referenced paragraphs on pages 3 and 4 of the specification.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 2313-1450, on September 25, 2003.



Registered Attorney for Applicant
Date: September 25, 2003